

# OUTLAW POISON GAS, URGES COMMITTEE, RECITING HORRORS

Development of Chemical Weapons Shows Effects Intensified Since War.

## CAN RUIN CIVILIZATION

U. S. Has Compound So Effective That One Drop on Body Kills.

## READY TO ABANDON USE

Unanimous Vote Given for Prohibition of Gas, Presented to Parley.

By RALPH F. COUCH.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 17. "Then there staggered into our midst French soldiers, blinded, coughing, chests heaving, faces as ugly purple color—lips speechless with agony, and behind them, in the gas choked trenches, we learned that they had left hundreds of dead and dying companions. It was the most fiendish, wicked thing I have ever seen."

The effect of poison gas upon the human system thus is described by the Rev. O. S. Watkins, writing in the Methodist Recorder of London. Dr. Watkins was an eyewitness of the first gas attack launched in the world war. It occurred April 22, 1915, at Ypres. The gas used was chlorine. Compared with the development of poison warfare later in the great conflict the German attack at Ypres was crude.

At the time of the armistice the United States was shipping to Europe for use in the great war 810 tons of gas a day. Development of chemical warfare and poison gas by the American army chemists has progressed to a degree in which the first German gas warfare seems mild.

Imagine, if it is possible, a poison gas battle in which the effects upon the soldiers of the enemy are 1,000 times as intense as were the effects of the German chlorine gas upon the Allies at Ypres. Then you will have a picture of the gas warfare of the future.

This is the conclusion of Carmi Thompson, member of the American advisory committee to the American delegation in the Conference on the Limitation of Armament, Pacific and Far Eastern Questions.

### Urges Move Against Poison Gas.

Mr. Thompson is chairman of the advisory subcommittee on new implements of warfare which recently laid before the whole committee a report recommending that the United States propose to the conference an international agreement abolishing for all time the use of chemicals and poison gas in modern warfare. This report was approved by the advisory committee and forwarded to the American delegates, who are expected to lay the matter before the conference.

Mr. Thompson's committee, which included Gen. Pershing, studied poison gas for two weeks before making its recommendation. The vote for abolition of the use of poison gas in the subcommittee was unanimous, according to Mr. Thompson. In addition to Mr. Thompson and Gen. Pershing, the members of the subcommittee are Admiral Rodgers, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America; Mrs. Katherine Edson, Gov. John M. Parker of Louisiana and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt.

"Unless the use of poison gas is outlawed in modern warfare," said Mr. Thompson, "it will destroy civilization. No other conclusion is possible. Our committee approached the problem with an open mind. We had available a great deal of the information in possession of the army. Experts of the army's gas corps were at our service. We learned everything that it was possible to learn about gas warfare in a reasonable period of study."

"The officers of the army gas corps are enthusiastic for their weapon. This is as it should be. They have been assigned to the task of developing it. And, on that score, they are doing a fine job. They are prepared to magnify a thousand times the ordinary horrors of war with poison."

### Gas Leads War Inventions.

"Development of poison gas warfare probably has proceeded further in the United States than in any other country. In the event of war poison gas could be made in the United States in larger quantities than in all the other countries put together. At the time of the armistice this fact, I believe, was actually being performed."

"We tried to determine whether the question could be compromised. We thought that perhaps the use of gas could be restricted so that it would not be dropped on cities by airplanes, killing thousands of noncombatants."

"We soon found, however, that the question of the use of poison gas cannot be compromised. Its use cannot be restricted. The only thing to do is to outlaw gas completely. The military men on our subcommittee voted for abolition unanimously, and it will stand to their credit."

"The gas which is being fought in checked war will become so horrible that conflict will have no victor and

# VIAL OF POISON GAS, DEADLY 2 WEEKS, KILLS ALL NEAR BY

POISON fighting must be outlawed by the world because, if allowed to develop more, it will destroy civilization and all that is good in human instinct," said Carmi Thompson, member of the American advisory committee of the Conference for the Limitation of Armament. Mr. Thompson is chairman of a subcommittee that prepared a report, now before the American delegates, recommending the complete abandonment of all forms of chemical warfare, including poison gas.

"One gas has been developed by the United States so deadly that a small vial opened in the chamber of the United States Senate would make life impossible in that chamber for a period of two weeks."

"The poisoning of wells is recognized, even by those favoring poison gas, as a crime against humanity. How much more of an outrage to human decency is it to poison the air that the fighting man must breathe? The world is ready, I believe, to answer that question by prohibiting the use of poison in all forms in modern warfare."

no vanquished. A gas war would result in the extermination of the people of both nations engaged.

"Poison gas and its use are in the same class with the poisoning of wells and the distribution of germs of typhoid and other diseases within the lines of the enemy. There is a point at which the use of weapons must stop or it will destroy humanity."

"The development of poison gas since the instrument was first used by the Germans has proceeded in six years to a point at which it is horrible to contemplate."

### One Drop on Body Kills Man.

"The United States has developed, for instance, a gas so effective that one drop placed on a man's body at any point will kill."

"This shows the kind of gas known to the United States and gives a picture, but a faint one, of what the next war might become if poison slaughter be not checked. The information about gas which I have just explained was laid before the subcommittee by the gas corps of the army."

"The name of this deadly gas was not given to the committee. I presume it to be a military secret."

"But let it be remembered that in making war horrible through the use of poison gas the United States is one thousand times more horrible than the last war if it chooses. It also can eliminate the use of gas through the Conference on the Limitation of Armament."

"Let us hope that the conference will take action to outlaw all forms of chemical warfare." Members of the army gas corps proposed to the conference an agreement abolishing for all time the use of chemicals and poison gas by the American army chemists has progressed to a degree in which the first German gas warfare seems mild.

Imagine, if it is possible, a poison gas battle in which the effects upon the soldiers of the enemy are 1,000 times as intense as were the effects of the German chlorine gas upon the Allies at Ypres. Then you will have a picture of the gas warfare of the future.

### Could Kill All in N. Y. in Hour.

"A squad of six airplanes, equipped with gas bombs, could destroy every vestige of life in the entire city of New York within an hour," said Mr. Thompson.

"Give us 300 men and a squad of airplanes equipped with gas bombs," say gas corps officers, "and we'll conquer Mexico. A force of 1,000 men well equipped with gas instruments could annihilate the world's largest army, provided that army were not equipped with gas masks."

Statements of this variety, together with data offered as evidence, were laid before Mr. Thompson's committee from Government files. The files give a complete history of gas warfare from the beginning of the first attack by the Germans in Flanders. The difficulty of the American army in perfecting gas masks that would afford real protection for American soldiers is clearly told. The manufacture of the first 20,000 masks required months. These masks were partly unreliable despite the fact that the Americans had before them the deadly fought experience of the British and French mask experts.

Other evidence laid before the committee told the story of the invention and development of more than forty poisons, all of which were used in the great war by this nation, the Allies and by Germany. There is virtually no limit to the number of poison compounds that can be made by military research chemists. It was made clear to the committee. As quickly as really protective measures were developed by an enemy against gas in one form a new compound could be produced. This would render almost valueless all his previous protective measures.

Extensive study of the evidence in possession of the Government concerning poison gas warfare was made by Mr. Thompson's committee before its recommendation was made favoring the complete outlawing of all forms of poison killing.

### German Tale of First Use of Gas.

The American records are short when it comes to details of the first German gas attack at Ypres because, it is explained, most of the fighters who could tell the story lie where they were killed. The effect of the attack is described by a German authority as follows:

"Try to imagine the feelings and the condition of the colored troops (French Turcos) as they saw the vast cloud of greenish yellow gas spring out of the ground and slowly move down wind toward them, the vapor clinging to the ground, seeking every hole and hollow and filling the trenches and shell holes as it came. First wonder, then fear; then, as the first fringes of the cloud enveloped them and left them choking and agonized in the fight for breath, panic. These who could move broke and ran, trying, generally in vain, to outstrip the cloud which followed inexorably after them."

Since this gas attack development of gases has been under study and experimentation by the Americans for six years.

The chemicals used as bases in manufacturing the American gases are arsenic, chlorine and sulphur. All

illery shells would be loaded with 15 per cent. of gas as a matter of course. Finally would come the airplane forces raining upon the enemy the dew of death of the Lewisite invention.

### Poison Clouds in Each Movement.

A picture of the next war, according to the Gas Corps specifications, shows gas clouds as a part of every barrage. Whether the wind is blowing toward or away from the American forces. With the wind against them the Americans would be obliged to attack wearing masks, argue Gas Corps officials, because the enemy certainly would take this advantage to help make the advance more difficult.

The American artillery, it is planned, would lay down a gas barrage no matter whether the wind were against American soldiers or not. Americans, forced by the enemy gas bombs to fight with masks, could walk through their own gas barrage without harm. Arriving at the trench to be taken, more gas could be dispensed by the American infantry to strangle, burn and otherwise poison him.

Every attack, every defensive action. In fact almost every military maneuver of any sort in the next war, thus is certain to be carried on in a cloud of poison, as the Gas Corps officials see it.

Poison thus is to be the universal weapon of modern war, it is planned by a portion of the American army.

Poison, it is argued, is cheap. It destroys and exterminates swiftly and slowly, as the poison fighting general may desire. It exterminates human life. It scorches vegetation. It makes vast areas untenable for any living thing for weeks or days as the poison fighter elect. With it, a man's laughter his opponent by hundreds or by hundreds of thousands, accordingly as he distributes his weapon in quantities of the quart or of the barrel.

With poison the enemy may be smothered to death. He may be burned alive with blistering mustard gas. His lungs may be burned out as if liquid fire were introduced within his chest. His sight may be destroyed by a terrible poison that attacks his eyes and the sockets within which the eyeballs rest.

### Delayed Action Poison Gas.

Poison that may delay its action for hours and even days may be thrust upon the opposing force. Not that his drinking water will be made deadly but rather the air that he breathes.

The sunlight and warmth, bringing life to the trenches the spark of joy of life, may be chained to slaughter the enemy when his area has previously been shelled with a slow acting poison.

Poison fighting will predominate in all wars of the future, according to the forecast of the officers of the Gas Corps. And the United States had best be ready to make the most of it.

Ignorance of the nature of chemical warfare is the only reason for the opposition of public sentiment to poison, according to the published opinion of an official of the Gas Corps. There is one other class of opposition, according to this official. That opposition comes, he is publicly quoted as having said, only from those persons who are afraid of gas. In short, only from cowards.

### PHILIPPINE PARTY ASKS FULL INDEPENDENCE

#### Nationalist Convention Demands Complete Separation.

MANILA, P. I., Dec. 15 (Associated Press).—Absolute independence for the Philippines through complete severance of political relations with the United States is demanded in the platform of the Nationalist party adopted by its convention here to-day. The platform favors English as the official language of the Philippines.

The independence plank was strongly supported by Manuel Quezon, president of the Philippine Senate, who declared in a speech that the Philippine Nationalist party do not want or need American protection.

The party took issue with the recent recommendation of Secretary Weeks and Gov. Gen. Wood to the Philippine provincial Government "get out of business and stay out."

### PRINCE OF WALES GOES TIGER HUNTING

Has Traveled 2,500 Miles by Rail on Indian Tour.

DELHI, India, Dec. 17.—The Prince of Wales is enjoying the sport of tiger hunting while the guest of Maharaja Sir Chhatrapati Sagarrao.

It is estimated that since landing at Bombay for his tour of India the Prince has traveled by rail approximately 2,500 miles. In his travels he has been greeted by eight ruling princes.

Despite the rioting in Bombay and the hartals in Ajmer, Lucknow, Allahabad and Benares, his reception has been of a gratifying character, none of the evils of his programme having been abandoned or modified.

Official announcement was made to-day that since the outbreak of disturbances in Malabar, 1,328 Moplahs have been killed, 1,500 wounded, 5,474 captured and 14,241 have surrendered voluntarily.

### U. S. DEPORTEES IN RUSSIA.

Mollie Steiner, Abrams, Lachowsky and Lipman Arrive.

RUSSIA, Dec. 18 (Associated Press).—Mollie Steiner, Jacob Abrams, Hyman Lachowsky and Sam Lipman, deported from the United States after being pardoned for alleged seditious activities, entered Soviet Russia last night. They were freed by the American authorities on condition that they go to Soviet Russia.

Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman are still here. Their permit to stay in Latvia expires to-morrow.

### CHILE ASKS FLEET.

SANTIAGO, Chile, December 17 (Associated Press).—Chile is ready to authorize facilities for the return to Tacna and Arica of Peruvian citizens proving that they have resided in the provinces a sufficient time to enable them to vote under the conditions of the proposed plebiscite there. Foreign Minister Barros Jarpa declared in a statement last night.

### POLAND ASKS VILNA PARLEY.

KOYNO, Lithuania, Dec. 17.—The Lithuanian Press Bureau announced to-day it had received information that Poland has proposed to Lithuania the holding of a conference at Danzig early in January in connection with the questions of Vilna and Memel.

### THEATRICALS IN MATTEWAN.

Prisoners of the State Asylum for Criminal Insane at Matteawan were greatly pleased with the presentation of a comedy, "Confusion," by the official staff Saturday. Two performances were given, one for inmates and the other to the outside public, in order to raise a Christmas fund for friendsless inmates.

# GIBBS PUTS WORLD'S CHRISTMAS HOPE IN 'WASHINGTON SPIRIT'

Briton Sees Faith Restored in Millions Who Had Been in Despair.

## BIG CHANGE IN MONTH

Real 'Peace on Earth' Can Be Viewed by Many as Parley Outcome.

## U. S. CREDIT IN IRISH CASE

Plans for Settlement Got the Greatest Impetus From America, It Is Said.

By SIR PHILIP GIBBS.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. LONDON, Dec. 17.—The world is going to have the best Christmas since the ending of the war. The spirit of Christmas, which is nothing if not peace and human brotherhood, will not be overwhelmed by such black, gloomy ironies as last year, when many nations sat amid their ruin, disillusioned with all their leaders who had broken their faith and their hopes of a better world after the war. Now faith is restored in the possibility of human progress and hopes are high again in next year's progress.

What has happened to make that difference?

The answer is not doubtful in millions of hearts. The Washington conference has happened, and by its clear-cut success, its rapid, unflinching advance through the jungles of difficulty, its superb simplicity of method and achievement has in a month turned the whole wheel of human destiny from cynical despair to vital optimism.

Those are high sounding words of mine, but I believe them honestly, utterly. I doubt whether the American people or my own British folk quite realize how deep a difference there is between our mental outlook now and our state of mind two months ago, or what a new spirit has been breathed into political life in its largest, most democratic sense by what has happened at Washington.

### Dangers No Longer Feared.

It is not merely that certain evil and dreadful possibilities such as war between the United States and Japan, or a competition in building between the United States and Great Britain have been pushed out of the public imagination, nor that there is quick relief in the burden of armament costs which such possibilities would have laid heavily upon us all. Those are minor facts in spite of their enormous importance. I mean they are minor in their effect upon the world's spiritual condition.

The thing that has brought new hope to the common consciousness is that demonstration that at last, after long waiting, there is a new and noble leadership—that we are no longer drifting toward a new, inescapable ruin, rudderless, pilotless, helpless. At last the helm has been grasped by a strong hand, and the ship of human life is being steered away from the rocks which would have smashed us all to bits.

Those rocks are still there, and God knows there are storms still to encounter, and our poor old ship is battered and she is no longer left to her zigzag course without a compass.

Dropping the metaphor, I find everywhere among the people I meet on the Continent of Europe as well as in England the new belief that we are beginning to pull out of our worst phase of distress, of moral degradation that followed the earthquake of the war, and that common sense and good will are at last beginning to prevail over hatred and folly.

Washington is a name which now has acquired a new meaning. It has a moral significance. People talk of the spirit of Washington as a new belief in mind. It was not out of what has been achieved at Washington so much, I think, as what may be done in the future if that "spirit of Washington" continues its influence in the direction of world affairs.

### Washington Influence in Ireland.

It is generally acknowledged that peace in Ireland is not separated from this same spirit which inspired Washington, and all of us here in England who have been working privately or publicly to avert the horror of another war, are glad to see that old, discredited feud, do not minimize the profound help that has come to us from America, without whose moral interest and influence this peace could never have been attained.

I know, perhaps better than most people, that American opinion, especially the friendly opinion of the American people, was a great sympathy at all with Sinn Fein violence, but a very strong desire for Irish liberty and English friendship was the direct cause of the first overtures which were made in behalf of that truce in Ireland which ended the reign of terror and made peace possible. More than that I cannot say, but it is one of my memories that in a small way I was a messenger between England and the United States, and by giving a faithful report of the American feeling among those whom I met in many cities of the United States I was able to convey to English public men and moderate Irishmen that conviction of moral support which would be ours if dominion home rule could be offered and accepted.

That Irish peace, if it is not wrecked on the very threshold of glorious attainment by fanatical, blood-sucking men who have no spirit of peace in their hearts, but only the insanity of undying, incurable hate, is one of the best gifts which will make this Christmas.

masculine splendid in history, not because misery is less in many countries, but because the causes of our worst misery, which are sheer stupidity and its unnecessary hatreds, have been cut out in this old cancer.

### England Free of Irish Drags.

Think of what new vitality, what youthful promise, will be given to Britain by this pledge of friendship with Ireland! For centuries the quarrel with Ireland spoiled England's own endeavors in a subtle, poisonous way. It was always a wound in our side. England herself had no home rule so long as Irish politics were harassed like a wound into every election, and politicians on one side or the other made it a war cry and a call to passion.

How much wasted energy, how much heart burning and exhaustion have been caused by this affair between two peoples, who now, by the grace of God and the new belief in the world, may go forward together, not hating each other's purpose but helping each other in friendship and pride, getting strength from each other not because they are alike in genius or temperament but because they are different.

believe in the future of Ireland now that she may express her soul freely and fully. I believe that her young men will, if wisely guided, give new and worldwide prestige to the Irish race of a very bright, shining kind, because there is among them a renaissance, indeed a sense of youthful life and opportunity which is not in England any longer because of the English losses in the war, and for the time being her rather pessimistic consciousness of old age and weariness.

### Christmas of Great Hope.

It is strange, even to myself, that I have the optimistic belief that this Christmas will be remembered in history as a Christmas of great hope. I have not thought of countries which do not encourage optimism.

I have seen the famine in Russia and the frightful wreckage of Russian civilization. I came back to Germany to find the mark less than half its value when I left and the German people horribly distressed by a financial crisis that still threatens them with ruin despite all their industry and feverish activity in commerce.

And here at home again in London there is no cause for immediate comfort. Unemployment figures are mounting again—nearly 2,000,000. I cannot walk down any busy street without meeting unemployed men begging for charity. In the main streets there is much distress, horrible, squalid poverty, which disappeared during the war, as some of our countrymen say. There is not much money about for Christmas presents, and business men talk as gloomily as ever about the loss of markets and stagnant exports.

France continues to abuse England—most of her newspapers and all of her treaties; and there is a nagging irritation between our two countries disheartening to the friends of both. Yet I am and many others looking at these facts squarely and not liking the look of them, seeing still no sign of rapid recovery and many signs of disintegration and decay, are stirred by new hopes, an optimistic faith!

What is the reason for it, or is it quite unreasonable?

### 'Spirit of Washington' in Air.

It is the "spirit of Washington" that is working our minds, and quite visibly breaking out that hard crust of cynical, reactionary and evil mentality which oppressed the idealism and common sense of the peoples.

Even in Russia there is a breakaway from that fanatical form of tyranny which masqueraded under the fair name of liberty. Lenin and all his crowd have abandoned their own creed of Communism as unworkable in human nature, have liberated their people from its severities, so that in spite of the famine they, too, will have new hope. I am certain that before another year has passed Russia will be back among the family of nations and that there will be great promises there for British, American and German goods unless we are stupid enough to let Germany take all their trade.

All along the line there is a breaking down of stupidity and the real values of life are asserting themselves against sham and artificial theories. Germany will be allowed to pay what is possible without ruining herself, and all of Europe with herself; and at the same time will not be allowed to undermine the export trade of every other country by dumping manufactures at cutthroat prices.

### See France Turning About.

France, never good at arithmetic, and preferring political argument to economic reasonings, is beginning to understand the British point of view about German reparations and to see some sense in it, not merely treachery. Briand, talking with Lloyd George, understands it perfectly and approves its vitality, but finds it difficult still to substitute the new principle for the old, little passions. This is difficult, but less difficult than before the Washington conference.

I venture to prophesy that Ireland will risk its political life to give its country from the economic ruin and future war which would certainly follow German bankruptcy and the French occupation of German territory. Moderation, compromise, conciliation, peace are working in spite of heavy counter attacks from old enemies.

Washington gave this new spirit a chance and an example. Once set in motion it is moving irresistibly to new achievement. May it move in the heart of the world this Christmas.

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### DR. VAN VLIET TAKEN TO LUDLOW ST. JAIL

Action Follows Failure to Pay \$10,000 Judgment.

Dr. Frederick Van Vliet, a physician with offices at 64 West Tenth street, was arrested on a warrant and taken to Ludlow street jail yesterday following his failure to pay a judgment for \$10,000 awarded to Frank Strana in the Sheriff's Court a week ago.

Strana was the plaintiff in the Supreme Court last June alleging that his wife had died as a result of an operation performed on her by Dr. Van Vliet. Van Vliet did not defend the suit, and a Sheriff's jury assessed the damages at the amount asked for in Strana's complaint. The body execution was granted by Justice Burr when Van Vliet did not pay the judgment promptly, and yesterday he was arrested with his wife at a breakfast in a Greenwich Village restaurant. He was taken to jail when he was unable to furnish a bond for \$20,000, twice the amount of the judgment.

# CARDINAL MERCIER BUST IS UNVEILED

Presentation of N. Y. University Is Made by Belgian Ambassador to U. S.

A bust of Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines, the gift of a group of prominent Belgians and Americans to New York University, was formally presented yesterday by Baron de Eulhuy de Carlier de Marcelline, the Belgian Ambassador to the United States. The unveiling and presentation took place in the reading room of the Gould Memorial Library on University Heights, and the bust was accepted on behalf of the university by Chancellor Elmer Ellsworth Brown.

The bust is the work of C. S. Paolo, Cardinal Mercier sitting for the sculptor during his visit to New York. In a letter read at yesterday's ceremony by Capt. Panofsky Paris, president of the committee presenting the bust, Cardinal Mercier said:

"You have given me this place because I represent a nation which understood and practiced the duty of putting honor and the respect of justice before everything."

Addressing a message to the student body of the university, Cardinal Mercier said:

"Always put honor, the respect of the rights of others and the love of your brothers in the first rank of your preoccupations and ahead of all your resolutions."

"Dear students, beloved fellow citizens of the city of New York, of which I retain a dear and grateful memory I extend my hands to you and salute with respect your duty and your vast and noble Republic."

In presenting the bust, the Belgian Ambassador said:

"It is most fitting that Cardinal Mercier's bust should be placed in New York University, as this seat of learning has already bestowed upon him its highest honor, the degree of Doctor of Laws. It is also most fitting, inasmuch as this university has ever shown particular interest in the study of philosophy, that branch of human effort in which Cardinal Mercier has so distinguished himself."

Baron de Carlier de Marcelline paid a warm tribute to Herbert Hoover, and

expressed his gratitude that Secretary Hoover is to undertake the management of the Educational Foundation, which has for its object the exchange of scholars between Belgium and the United States. He also expressed his appreciation of the generosity of a committee of Americans that has undertaken to restore the library of the University of Louvain.

Among those present at the unveiling were: Felleux Catter, honorary professor at the University of Brussels and legal adviser to the Belgian delegation at the Washington conference; Thomas Fortune Ryan, George Barr Baker, Bernard M. Baruch, Burr Price, Elbert H. Gary, Thomas W. Lamont, Clarence H. Jackson, Frank L. Polk, Norman H. Davis, Hamilton Holt, Louis Luzzatto, Gen. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, H. de B. Parsons and Louis Van der Hayden A. Hauzen.

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SALES BY MR. P. A. CHAPMAN

# Woodrow Wilson As I Know Him

By JOSEPH P. TUMULTY

THE HUMAN side of Woodrow Wilson is now revealed to you by the man best fitted to do it—his secretary from 1910 to 1921, Woodrow Wilson's position in the World War necessitated action which was not only compelled at the time, but which was closest to him, speaks the truth as he sees it in a way that interests both friend and foe of the war President. It is a penetrating study of the human being behind this international figure. \$5.00 at every bookstore.

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